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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/672,493

09/26/2003

Thomas Berger

1685-3

3531

81099

7590

06/04/2009

Thomas M. Galgano

20 W. Park Avenue

Suite 204

Long Beach, NY 11561

EXAMINER

CUMARASEGARAN, VERN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/04/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/672,493	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BERGER, THOMAS	
	<b>Examiner</b> VERN CUMARASEGARAN	<b>Art Unit</b> 3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2009 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter and fail the machine-or-transformation test.

The machine-or-transformation test is a two-branched inquiry; an applicant may show that a process claim satisfies U.S.C. 101 either by showing that his claim is tied to a particular machine, or by showing that this claim transforms an article. See *Benson*, 409 U.S. at 70. Certain considerations are applicable to analysis under either branch. First, as illustrated by *Benson*, the use of a specific machine or transformation of an article must impose meaningful limits on the claim's scope to impart patent eligibility. See *Benson*, 409 U.S. at 71-72. Second, the involvement of the machine or transformation in the claimed process must not merely be insignificant extra solution activity. See *Flook*, 437 U.S. at 590.

Although the steps recited in claim 1 make use of an apparatus, the steps themselves are not expressly performed by a machine and can be performed by a human being.

The applicable test to determine whether a claim is drawn to a patent eligible process under 101 is the machine-or-transformation test set forth by the Supreme Court, and Applicant's claim here plainly fails that test.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald (US 7,054,833 B1) in view of McKee et al. (US Patent 6,272,482 B1).

**As to claim 1**, McDonald shows interrogating a data file of property owner addresses (col.12 lines 32-35); comparing the addresses to database addresses certified to be in existence (col.9 lines 1-4 where the specific type of database is considered non-functional descriptive language since it does not functional affected the recited steps). McDonald does not expressly show assigning a probable escheat jurisdiction based on the comparison.

However, McDonald does show determining the address of the previous owner and contacting the owner at the last known address. McKee et al show assigning a jurisdiction based on various rules (Fig.3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the method of assigning probable escheat jurisdiction based on the comparison since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements and in the combination each element merely would have

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performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

**As to claims 2-6, examiner takes official notice** that it is old and well known in the art to determine an error range or confidence code for calculations and editing information such as addresses based on comparison. For example, when conducting a population census that takes into account the residences of the population, an error range is always calculated.

**As to claims 7-18, examiner takes official notice** that it is old and well known in the art to use comparison methods in determining escheat jurisdiction. For example, the current location of the property is compared with the last known location of the owner when determining escheat jurisdiction. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the various comparison editing methods in determining the escheat jurisdiction since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old known elements.

**As to claim 19**, McDonald shows generating a report (col.9 lines 50-60).

**As to claims 20 and 21**, McDonald shows using computer coupled to the internet (Fig.1).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VERN CUMARASEGARAN whose telephone number is

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(571)270-3273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/V. C./

Examiner, Art Unit 3629

/JOHN G WEISS/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3629